

VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

LITURGY

WE MISS YOU ALOT !

If you've forgotten the English Liturgy, your friends there certainly havn't forgotten you. Whether you are single or married, young or mature, life is hard to make sense of without God. Part of being with God as a disciple, is going to Church for Liturgy. Saint Isaac says... **"Everyone's desire is made known by their actions..."** If a person is truly seeking Christ then they will be at Church with others who are trying to do the same. When you stop and think about it, it really stands to reason !

**SEE YOU AT CHURCH
NEXT LITURGY ?**

ENGLISH LITURGY
EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT
6.30 - 7.30 PM.



**YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF AND
YOUR CHILDREN TO BE AT
CHURCH !**

**"Let the little Children
come to Me" {Matthew 19:14}**

The Church teaches that Christian Education of children begins at home. It doesn't matter how many youth groups or church schools a child attends, if at home Christ is not the centre of family life then chances are the child will reject the Church. In our faith, the **Family** is seen as the **Home Church** with the parents as a type of lay priesthood. There is little point in people coming to the clergy when their children are teenagers, and complaining about their children's total disregard of the Christian Faith, when for years they ignored their responsibility as parents to teach their children and bring them to Church **regularly**.

As parents we need to start teaching the children about Jesus from a young age. Kids will easily accept Christ, more so than adults, and can even teach us much about innocent dependence on God.

There are miriads of children's Bibles that can help you do this along with colouring in books with bible scenes and so on. **continued over**

NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO A BIGGER AND BETTER NEWSLETTER

This is the first issue of **"VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS"**

A small committee of people has been established in order to bring you this newsletter **monthly**. **Voice in the Wilderness** will keep you informed as to the goings on in the world of Church Life plus present you with small concise articles on the Orthodox Christian Faith. Regular columns will include **news, helpfull quotes, question and answers, and sayings from the Fathers**. If you have any **Questions about our Faith** simply send them to **Voice in the Wilderness** C/ English Liturgy Committee, P.O. Box 620 South Brisbane 4101.



"Let the little children come to Me"

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Try and get your children into a routine of prayer, even if its simply the "Our Father" every night before they go to bed. Explain to them who the people in the Icons around the house are and maybe their life story if you know it. Make a special effort to teach your children about what happens at Church. Make the effort to really celebrate church feasts. If you yourself don't know simply contact Fr Gregory or Deacon Dimitri who can guide you to our **Parish Library and/or Bookstore**. Books explaining the Orthodox Faith in English are now endless.

Another tip is to teach your children about incense and how to "Thimiasi" the house as part of the family's "home liturgy", kids love the smoke. Another idea is to make Prosphora or Kolliva with the kids, explaining along the way what these are and mean.

The ways in which children can be taught our faith at home are endless. As with everything they require some desire on our part as parents and simple thought and planning. You'll find that Kids will actually like attending church. If they see a link between Church and home then they are more likely to continue their loyalty to Christ and their Church in their adult life.

Make going to church a happy family event. Teach them to pray a little on their way to Church. Explain what Holy Communion is and how they can take it regularly. Take them to confession from an early age so they don't have the same hangups most of us have about it when adults.

At Church be positive rather than always telling them to Shh! and be quiet. If they make some noise, so what, they're children and children make noise. As they grow older they will settle down.

Being a parent is very difficult and no-one is perfect at it. No matter how hard you try, we all make mistakes. Being a parent however, also means being the most influential person in your child's life. No one can impart the foundations of a Christian education like you as a parent can. For this reason the Church asks you to consider the magnitude of your great responsibility as a parent, knowing that you will respond to the call with love for your children. If you have forgotten your Orthodox Faith then the Church invites back into its life with open arms, you and your children.

PLEASE COME HOME !



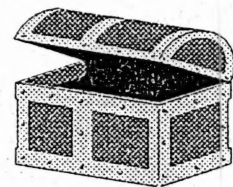
Orthodox Christianity and Everyday Life.

This is an Adult Education and Discussion group run by the Church every Wednesday Night from 22 Sept. to 3 Nov. 1993. A small Service (called Vespers) begins at 7.00 pm in the Church followed by a small talk and discussion in groups after wards. Fellowship with coffee and tea are part of the night. Each night finishes around 9.30pm. Topics to be covered include Conflict and its resolution, Illness and Death, the Christian Education of Children, and other issues such as IVF and Human Sexuality. See you there.

RETREAT AT BORNHOFFEN

12-14 NOV. '93

Make sure you keep this weekend free ! Preparations are in progress for this pre-Christmas Retreat at beautiful Bornhoffen. Cost is \$35 per person and \$15 for children under 15 (under 7 free). More information is on its way soon including theme and guest speaker. Any early bookings or enquiries to Peter Pap. on 844 9891 please. Don't leave it to the last minute, numbers are limited and some may be turned back. P.S. Children of all ages are welcome with their parents.



TREASURES FROM THE CHURCH FATHERS

Thirst for Jesus, so that He may inebriate you with His Love. Blind your eyes to all that is held in honor in the world, so that you may be held worthy to have the peace which comes from God reign in your heart... Everyone's desire is made known by their action...

{Saint Isaac of Syria}